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Mary Humphreys

Book of

FAIRY
TALES



Mary Humphreys

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LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD.



Maud Humphrey's
Book of

Fairy



Tales

Maud Humphrey

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LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD.

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WOOD-CUTTER and his wife had a sweet little girl, who on account of the scarlet hood she wore was called "Little Red Riding Hood." One day her mother said to her: "Granny has been very ill. Put on your hood, and take her these cheese-cakes and this pat of fresh butter." Little Red Riding Hood started off, and soon came to a wood through which she had to pass. A wolf met her and asked her where she was going, and she told him; and he said he would run ahead and see who would get there first. So he ran all the way to the cottage and rapped at the door. "Who is there?" asked grandmother. "It is I," said the wolf in a soft voice, "Little Red Riding Hood; I have brought you nice fresh cakes and butter." "Pull the bobbin, and the latch will fly up," called out the grandmother; and the wolf did so and ate up the poor old lady. Then he put on her nightgown and frilled cap and got into bed. After a while Red Riding Hood came and knocked at the door, and the wolf said in a soft voice, "Pull the bobbin and the latch will fly up." The little girl came in, put down her basket, and soon crawled into bed beside her grandmother, as she thought. But she did not feel at ease, and, seeing the hairy arms, she said, "What long arms you have, grandmother!" "The better to hug you with, my child!" Then she said, "What great ears you have, grandmother!" "The better to hear with, my dear!" "What large eyes you have, grandmother!" "The better to see with, my dear!" "But — what — great — teeth — you have!" "The better to eat with, my dear!" and so saying the wicked wolf fell upon poor Red Riding Hood and ate her all up.

CINDERELLA.



Maud Humphrey

ONCE upon a time there lived a widower and his daughter, and she was as sweet a child as ever lived! The father decided to marry again, and took for a wife a widow with two daughters, who he fancied would be company for his own little girl. But they were cross and unpleasant, and treated shamefully, making her work and dress in rags, while they and dressed in silks and fine work was done she sat on the ashes and cinders, and called her Cinderella. treated her just as un- girl had a hard time of complaint to her father.

the child most like a servant took their ease, laces. When her the hearth, among for that reason they The step-mother kindly, and the poor it, but made no com-

One day the king claim that a ball would Prince, his son, and all girls were invited to Such a time as there was! sisters were in a great preparation, and from early morn- the evening

her two sisters, and they went off to the ball in grandeur, while she sat down in the chimney corner and wept bitter tears. While she sat thus her fairy godmother appeared and asked what was the mat-



M.H.

ter. "You want to go to the ball?" said she. "Well, so you shall." "But how can I go in these rags?" cried Cinderella. "I'll soon fix that. Only do as I tell you," was the reply. A pumpkin was brought in and a rat-trap filled with rats and mice, and these, at a touch from the magic wand, were transformed into a fine coach with driver and footmen. Another touch of the wand, and Cinderella's rags turned into a beautiful dress, and on her feet were slippers that shone like glass. "Now go to the ball," said the Godmother, "but be sure and come away before twelve o'clock, or you will find yourself in rags."

Cinderella went to the ball, and was the most beautiful woman there, and the Prince fell madly in love with her. It was nearly twelve o'clock when Cinderella remembered, and flew away—just in time. For outside the door her clothes turned to rags, and the rats and mice went scurrying off. Soon after she reached home the sisters came in and told her all about the ball, and the lovely Princess who was there. She begged to go to the second ball, which was to take place the next night; but they laughed at her scornfully. The fairy Godmother came again, and used her magic wand, and at the ball Cinderella was the admiration of all. The Prince was so attentive and the time passed so swiftly that Cinderella forgot. And when she looked at the clock, it was on the stroke of twelve! She left in haste, and as she ran down the stairs her clothes changed to rags, and away went one of her glass slippers. The Prince picked it up. The next day there was great excitement, for the Prince drove out with heralds who proclaimed that he was willing to marry the maid who could wear the glass slipper. Such a squeezing time as there was! Cinderella asked to try it on. The sisters laughed; but the Prince said "Why not?" and lo! the slipper went on easily! The Godmother appeared with the mate to it, and then the Prince and the two sisters knew that Cinderella was the Princess they had met at the ball. Cinderella married the Prince, and they were the happiest couple in the world.

Puss IN BOOTS.



Puss and his Master.

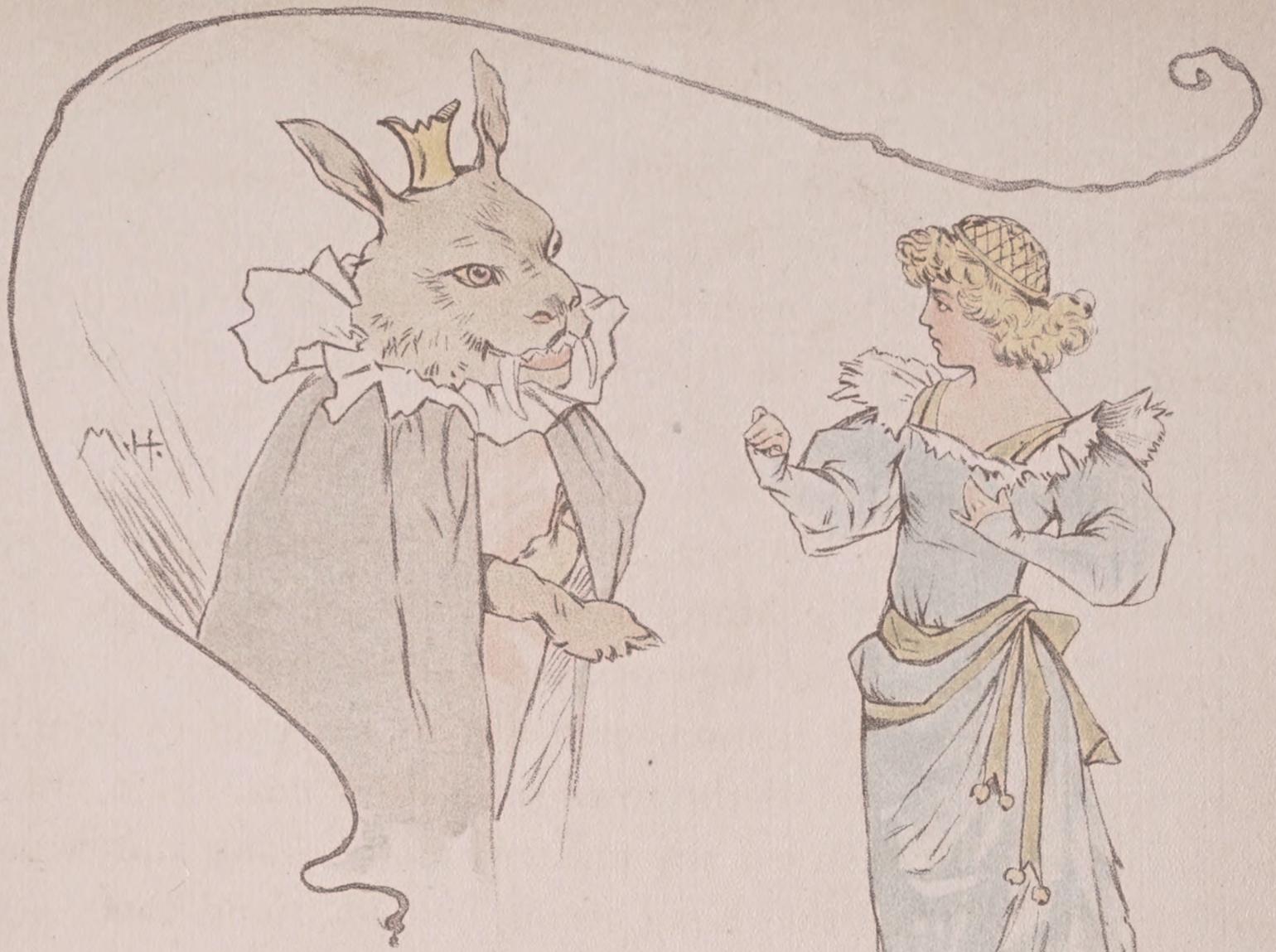
PUSS IN BOOTS.



HERE was once a Miller who died leaving three sons. The eldest received his mill; the second his cow; and the youngest nothing but his cat. "You need not be anxious, dear master" said the cat, seeing his trouble, "get me a bag and a pair of boots, and you shall be rich. The young man complied, and Puss went a hunting. When he had bagged some fine rabbits he went to court, and, laying them before the King, said: "My Master, the Marquis of Carabas' best service to your Majesty," and the King, well pleased, accepted the gift.

Puss then made his master bathe in a stream by which the King was to dine, and as the royal suite drew near cried, "Help! help! thieves have stolen my master's clothes, and the Marquis will drown." Then the King seeing his old friend Puss, sent at once for garments, and the Miller's son, dressed like a prince, was taken into the King's own carriage. Meantime, sly Puss runs on before, telling men at work in the meadows, and reapers at work in the fields, "These lands belong to the Marquis of Carabas, and unless you tell the King so when he passes you shall be chopped to mince meat. Puss then came to a castle where an ogre lived, famed for being able to change himself into different animals, and he begged the ogre to show his power. The ogre at once became a lion, and Puss, frightened, asked him to be something smaller. Then the ogre obligingly became a mouse and Puss gobbled him up in a flash. Thus Puss gained a castle for his master, and the King pleased with what he had seen of the young man chose him for a son-in-law.

So the Miller's son wedded the King's daughter, and they all lived in great prosperity and happiness, never forgetting to show Puss the greatest respect and attention.



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.



RICH man had three daughters, the youngest of whom was named Beauty. She was a good girl, and her father loved her dearly. When he lost nearly all his money, and had to live in a poor way, Beauty kept things bright and cheerful, and did all the housework without grumbling. One day he was called to the next town on business; and the eldest daughter said, "Bring me a new silk dress;" and the second said, "Bring me a purse full of gold." But Beauty only asked for a rose. The old father came back without the money he had hoped to get; and on the way passed a garden full of roses, and leaned over the fence to get one. As he broke the stem he heard a low growl, and looking up saw a great Beast with a club in its hand. The man begged for mercy, and the Beast said he would let him off, if he would send instead one of his daughters. Beauty went, and found the Beast's house very lovely, and in the breakfast-room

was a table set for two. She sat down and poured the coffee, and the Beast sat opposite to her and seemed very happy. He was very kind to her, and every day he asked her to marry him. One day he found her crying because she was homesick, and he told her to run home, but to be sure to come back to breakfast the next morning.

Her father was glad to see her, for he thought she was dead; but her sisters were ugly and jealous, and gave her something to drink which made her sleep late. When Beauty woke she ran all the way to the Beast's house, and hunted through every room, but could not find him. Then she ran out into the garden, and there under a rose-bush he lay as if dead. Beauty knelt beside him, put her arms around his thick neck, and kissed his big ugly head.

"Dear Beast, wake up!" she cried. "Don't die, or I shall die too! I love you so!" At these words the Beast jumped up, the rough skin dropped from him, and he was the most beautiful Prince that was ever seen. He had been enchanted, and only Love had power to change his shape. So Beauty and the Beast were married and lived happy ever after.

GOODY TWO SHOES.



Maud Humphrey

GOODY TWO SHOES.



HERE was once a sweet little girl who was called Goody Two Shoes. For a long time she had only one shoe, and when a kind friend gave her two new ones she was so proud that she ran through the village, crying, "See my two shoes, my lovely two shoes." So the people laughed, and gave her the name of Goody Two Shoes, by which she was known ever afterwards. She soon learned to read and write, and then taught the other children of the village who were too poor to go to school. She cut letters for them out of wood and made them set up all the words they wanted to spell. She was good and kind to everybody, and when the old school-mistress died, Goody was made school-mistress in her place. She had all sorts of pets and they were all very fond of her. Goody knew so much that the people in the next village accused her of being a witch. But a host of her friends came and told the judge how kind Goody was, and instead of being hanged or burnt alive, she was publicly thanked for her kindness to the poor. One of the judges of the court fell in love with her, and in a short time they were married, and Goody Two Shoes became Lady Margery. She lived for many years, doing good to all, and making everybody around her as happy as possible.

ALADDIN.

ALADDIN was the only child of a poor tailor named Mustafa. He was an idle fellow, and would not work, nor learn any trade, but spent all his time in the streets. Mustafa fell ill and died, and then Aladdin and his mother were poorer than ever. One day, as Aladdin was lounging through the streets, a man came up, and clasping him in his arms told Aladdin that he was his uncle, his father's younger brother. He made much of the boy, and one morning took him for a long walk in the country.

At a certain place he told Aladdin to build a fire, and he did so; when the fire and smoke died away, there was seen a great flat stone with a ring in the centre. The pretended uncle, who was really a magician, told Aladdin to lift the stone and go down into the cavern, and bring him the lamp he would find there.

Aladdin did as he was told, and passed through a garden ablaze with jewels, many of which he picked up and put in his pockets and in the bosom of his shirt, where he placed the lamp. When he came to the steps he

asked the magician to give him his hand. But this the magician would not do until Aladdin first gave him the lamp. This Aladdin refused to do, and the magician in a great rage stamped on the



ground, threw some perfume on the fire, and the stone slipped back into its place.

Aladdin cried in vain for help, for no one could hear him. In his distress he wrung his hands, and happened to rub a ring the magician had given him. Instantly a Genie stood before him, and said, "I am your slave as long as you wear that ring. What do you want?" "Take me home," said Aladdin; and in a moment he found himself at his own door, and his mother was delighted to see him. All went well with them now, as they had only to rub the lamp or the ring to have all their hearts could wish.

Then Aladdin fell in love with a beautiful Princess, and tried hard to win her for his bride. The slave of the lamp built him a magnificent palace, and after a while he married the Princess he loved, and the two lived happily together. But it was not long before the old magician began to make trouble. Finding that Aladdin was living in splendor, he bought many new lamps and went through the streets of the city crying, "New lamps for old! New lamps for old!" Aladdin was away, and the Princess and her maids were alone in the palace; and one of the girls took the old lamp and gave it to the magician for a new one. As soon as it was dark the magician rubbed the lamp and ordered the slave to remove Aladdin's palace to the centre of Africa. When Aladdin came back, there was no palace and no Princess; and the Sultan said if his daughter was not brought to him within three days Aladdin should be put to death.

Aladdin was in despair. The lamp was gone, but the ring was left!—and giving that a rub the Genie appeared, and transported Aladdin to the very walls of his palace. His wife was watching for him, and let him in through a secret door, and how glad the two were to meet again! The lamp was found and well rubbed, and the slave took the palace and all back again, and everybody was as happy as could be.

HOP O' MY THUMB.



HERE was once a poor wood-
cutter who had
seven children,

the youngest of
whom was so
small they call-
ed him Hop o'
My Thumb. One
night Hop over-
heard his father
say, "Wife, we
cannot keep these
children any long-
er. We shall all
starve to death.
Let us take
them in the
woods and
lose them."
And the
mother
agreed. So
Hop
got up
early the next
morning and
filled his pockets
with pebbles, and
when the family went
into the woods he dropped
a stone now and then along the way.
When night came the children found

themselves alone, and they began to
cry. But Hop o' My
Thumb told them not to
cry, for he would lead
them home; which
he did. That night
the mother could
not sleep, but
kept crying
out, "I wish
the children
were here!"
and with
that the
door open-
ed and in
they all ran,
shouting,
"Here we are,
mother!" By-and-
by they were too
poor again to feed so
many mouths, and the
children were taken to
the woods for
the fairies to
look after. This
time Hop o' My
Thumb had only
some crumbs of bread
with him, which the birds ate up as soon
as he scattered them. The children



cried and cried until they had no more tears to shed, and then walked on and on in search of a house. They came to an Ogre's castle, and as he was out the Ogress let them in and gave them something to eat, and hid them under the bed. When the Ogre came home he cried out, "I smell little children, and I'll have them for supper!" When they heard this they crept out and ran as fast as they could, and hid under a big rock. The next day the Ogre gave chase, and being tired lay down on this rock and took off his seven-league boots. As soon as the old Ogre was asleep, Hop o' My Thumb put on the fairy boots, and hurried away to the Ogre's castle, and said :

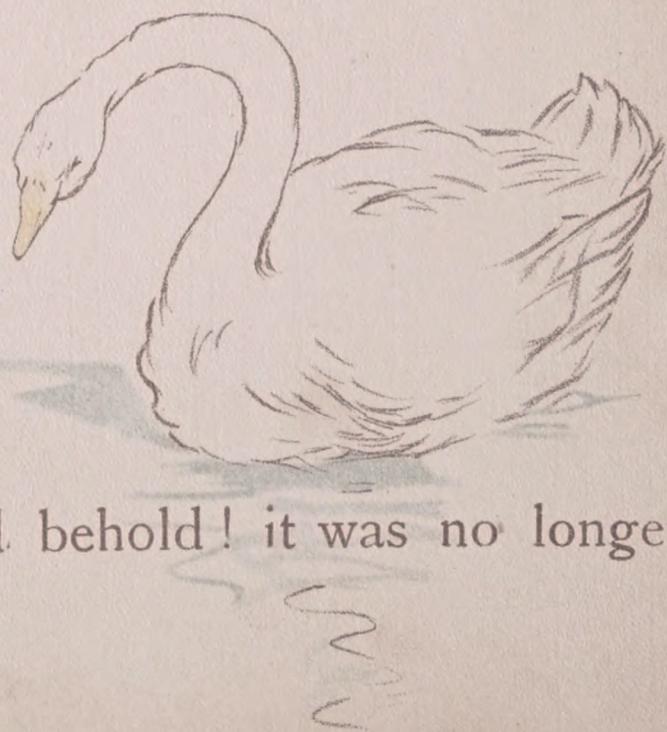
"Ogress, Ogre cannot come,
Give great key to Hop o' My Thumb."

She saw the boots and thought it was all right, so gave him the key, and he took away all the gold that was in the castle, and gave it to the poor people around. And Hop o' My Thumb married the King's Daughter, and they were as happy as the day was long.



DOWN by the water sat a Duck upon her nest, for she had to hatch her ducklings, and was almost tired out before they came. At last one egg-shell after another broke, and little creatures stuck up their heads crying, "Peep! peep!" But there was one egg that would not seem to hatch, and the mother Duck was quite discouraged. At last the egg-shell burst and there crept forth a very large and very ugly Duckling. The old Duck thought it must be a turkey chick, for it was not like her other young ones. But the ugly gray Duckling could swim as well as the rest, if not better. But so ugly was it that it was

scoffed at by all the poultry in the farm-yard, and at last it flew over the fence and went down among the wild ducks. But the wild ducks did not like its looks, and it went where some wild geese were, but had to hide among the reeds for fear of being shot, for the hunters were out. Late in the day it came to a peasant's hut, where lived an old woman with her Tom Cat and her Hen. These two did not think much of the Duckling because it could neither purr nor lay eggs. So it went away, and when winter came on it was nearly frozen to death. But when the glad spring came the ugly Duckling crept down to the water and found itself among some lovely Swans. "If I go near them they will kill me! well let them;" and as it swam toward them it looked down in the water, and lo and behold! it was no longer an ugly Duckling but a graceful Swan.



JACK AND THE BEANSTALK.



Maud Humphrey

Jack meets the Fairy

THERE was once a widow with an only son named Jack. He was a lazy

fellow, and would not work, but spent his mother's money so fast that she grew poorer and poorer. At last she had nothing left but a white cow; and Jack, being

sorry for his ways, took it off to sell it. He met a butcher who offered him some bright, colored beans for the cow, and the silly boy gave the cow to the butcher and was happy over his bargain. But his mother was very angry, and took the beans and threw them all into a hole in the garden, and Jack went supperless to bed. The next

morning early Jack went out to look at the beans, and found they had sprouted in the night and had a thick stalk that went up to the sky.

He at once climbed the stalk, and when he got to the top he found

himself in a strange country. A fairy met him, and told him how he might undo the mis-

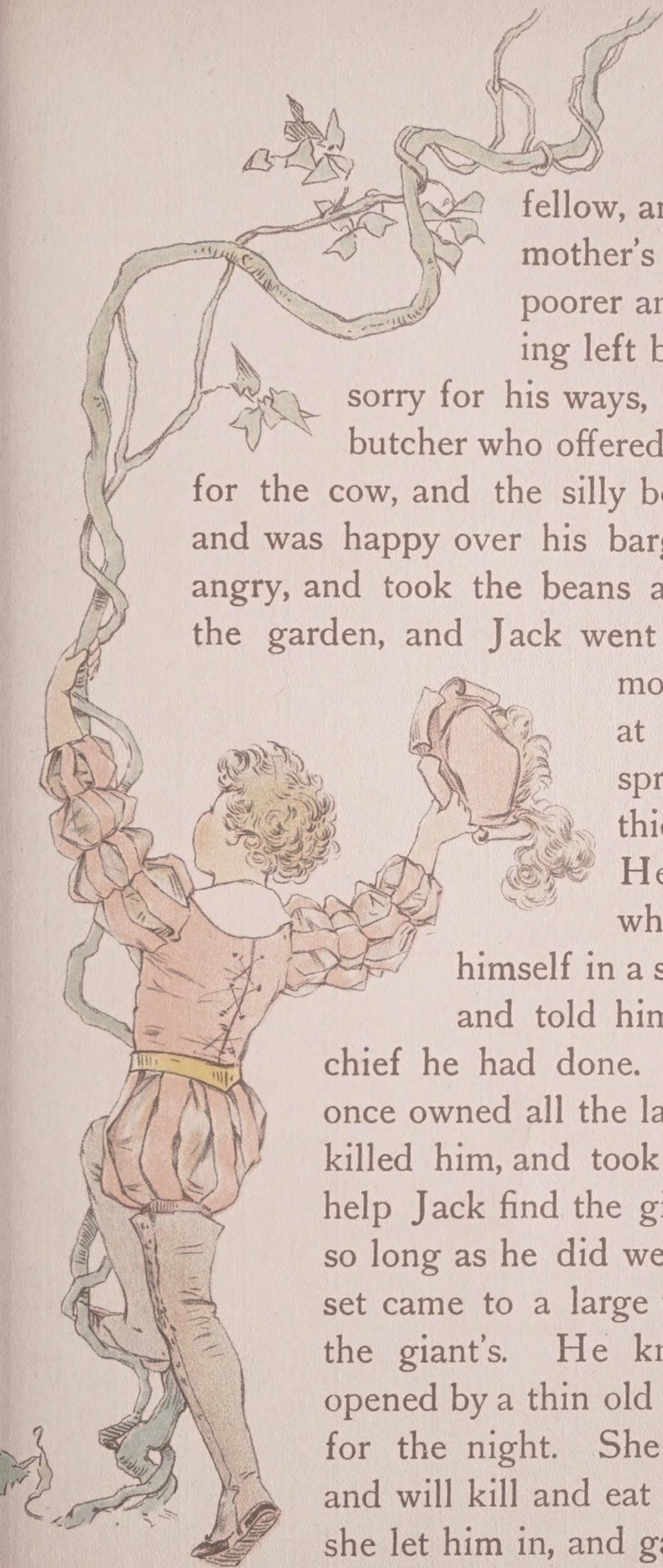
chief he had done. She told Jack that his father once owned all the land in this country; but a giant killed him, and took all his possessions. She would

help Jack find the giant, and guard him from danger so long as he did well. Jack started off, and at sun-

set came to a large white house which he knew was the giant's. He knocked at the door, which was

opened by a thin old woman of whom he asked shelter for the night. She said, "My husband is a giant, and will kill and eat you." But Jack begged so hard she let him in, and gave him something to eat.

Soon the giant came in, and Jack slipped into the



oven just in time. After the giant had eaten his supper, he called for his hen that laid him a golden egg, whenever he said "Lay."

After a time he grew tired of this play, and fell asleep, and as soon as Jack heard him snoring he seized the hen, and slid down the beanstalk. His mother was overjoyed to see him; and the hen laid golden eggs for them, which they sold, and grew very rich.

After a time Jack climbed the beanstalk again, and made his way to the white house, where he begged for food and shelter. The old woman shook her head. But Jack begged so hard that she let him in, and hid him in the copper boiler. Soon the giant came in and, having eaten his supper, called for his money bags. He counted over his gold and silver, then tied up the bags and went to sleep. As soon as Jack heard him snore he jumped out of the boiler, seized the bags, and made off for home as fast as he could.

For a long time Jack stayed at home; but at last he had such a strong desire to visit fairy-land again, that he got up early one morning and climbed the beanstalk, hoping to get back before his mother missed him. The old woman did not recognize him, but when he asked for food she shook her head. But Jack begged so hard that she let him in, and when she heard the giant coming she hid him under a barrel. As soon as the giant entered the house he roared out, "I smell meat!" and would not be satisfied until he had made a thorough search. When he had finished he cried out, "Bring me my harp!" and when it was brought to him he shouted "Play!" and it played the most exquisite music, which soon put the giant to sleep.

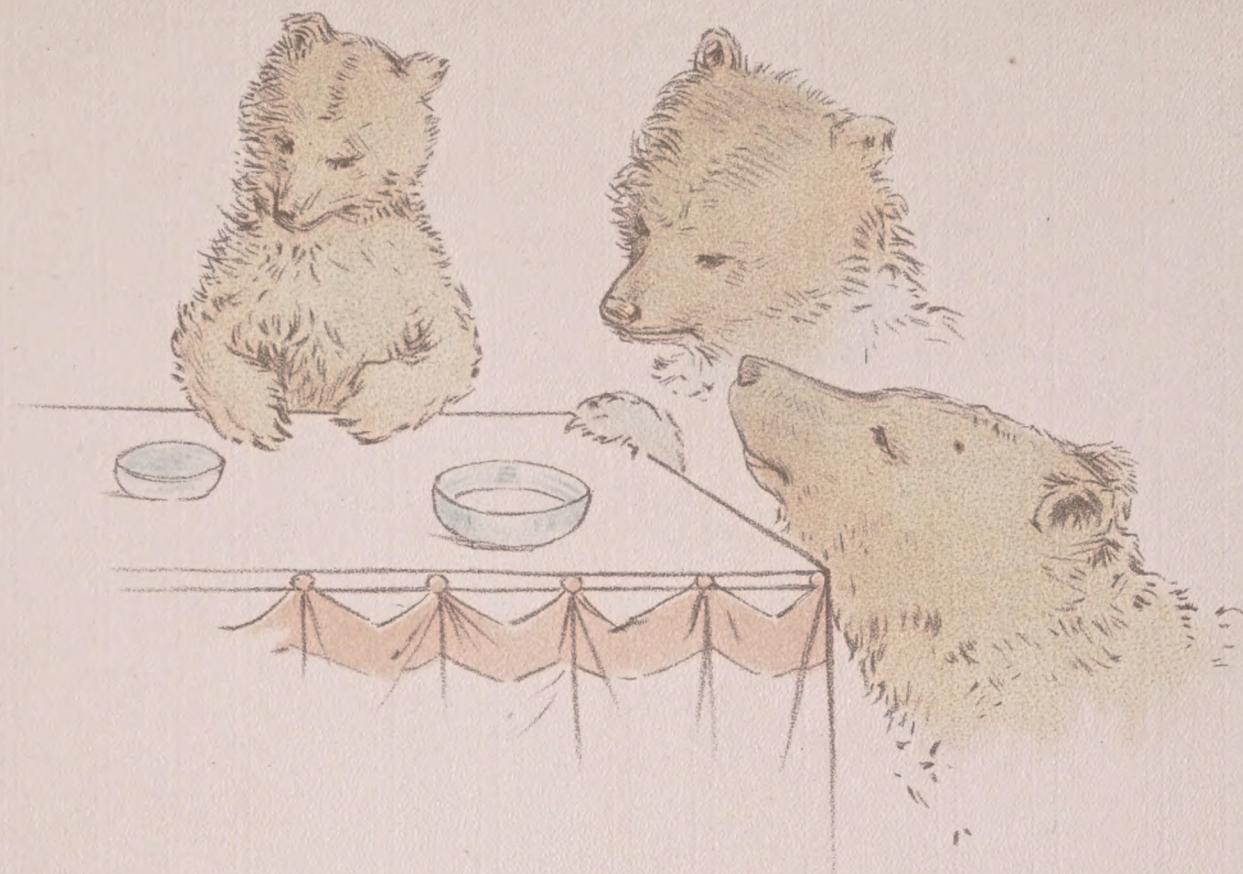
As soon as the giant began to snore Jack crawled out, seized the harp and started on a run. The harp on being touched screamed out; the giant woke and gave chase, but when he reached the top of the beanstalk Jack was at the bottom, and in a moment he took an axe and chopped down the beanstalk. The giant fell headlong and was killed; and Jack never went up the beanstalk again.

THE THREE BEARS.



Mary Humphrey

The little bear's bed.



THE THREE BEARS.

THREE bears lived in the woods, in a house of their own. One was a great big Bear, with a deep gruff voice; the second was a smaller Bear, with a middling-sized voice; and the third was a wee-wee Bear, with a voice like a squeak. One day they went out for a walk, and while they were gone a little girl called Silver-locks passed by, and seeing the nice little house walked in and made herself quite at home. She tasted the porridge in the three bowls, she sat down in each of the chairs, and tried all the beds. And the little wee bed was so soft and nice that she went fast asleep. Soon the three bears came in from their walk, and the big one roared out: "SOME ONE HAS BEEN EATING MY PORRIDGE!" Then the second and the third bear said the same thing. Then the big Bear thought he would sit down, and soon he growled out: "SOME ONE HAS BEEN SITTING IN MY CHAIR!" The other bears said the same thing, and all three began to look very grave. Then they went upstairs to their bed-room. The big Bear cried out: "SOME ONE HAS BEEN IN MY BED!" The second one said the same, but not

so loud; while the wee little Bear squeaked in a wee little voice :
“*Some one has been in my bed — and here she is !*” Silver-locks hearing the noise jumped out of bed, leaped out the window, and flew away into the wood, and the three bears all went to bed and were soon fast asleep.

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BABES IN THE WOOD.



Maria Humphrey -

THE BABES IN THE WOOD.



ONCE upon a time a rich gentleman and his wife lived happily with their two little children, a boy and a girl, until a sad time came, when both the father and the mother died.

The father had a brother, to whom he gave the care of his beloved children.

After they became orphans, the two little children went to live with this uncle, who was a bad man at heart, although he was thought to be kind and good.

Their father had left to these children a large sum of money, which was to be divided between them; but, in case of their death, their uncle was to have it.

One day this wicked uncle sent for two robbers, and bargained with them to take the children away, and kill them, so that he might secure their fortune.

So the two robbers carried them off to the woods; but on the way the children prattled so innocently that one of the robbers took pity on them, and tried to persuade the other to allow the children to live. The other robber refused, and the two fought over the matter until one of them was killed.

The other robber then took the babes by the hand, and told them to wait for him, and he would go away, and come back, bringing them food; but the poor little brother and sister wandered up and down, and the robber never came back.

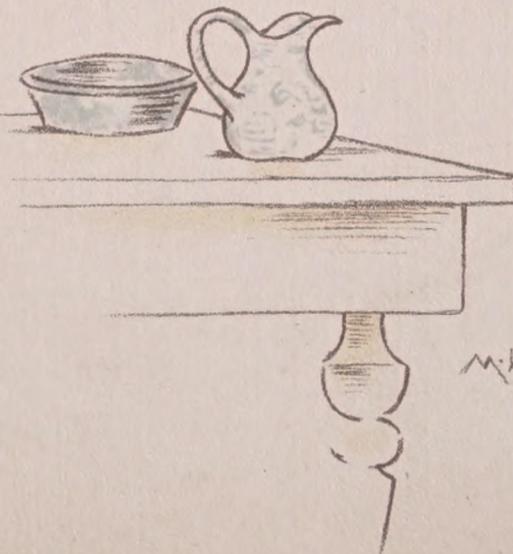
Finally, with their arms about one another, they fell asleep, never to wake again; and the birds came and sang over them, and covered them with leaves.

After years had passed away, the wicked uncle met with many misfortunes, and finally was sent to prison, and died there.

TOM THUMB.



LONG time ago a ploughman wished for a child, even if it was no bigger than his thumb. So one day when he went home he found his wife nursing a wee baby, that grew to the size of his thumb and then never grew any more. One day while his mother was making a plum-pudding, Tom fell into the bowl, and his mother stirred him up and put him in the pot. The hot water made him kick, and his mother took out the pudding and gave it to a passing tinker. Tom cried out "Hello!" when the tinker sneezed, which so scared him that he threw the pudding into a field and it tumbled to pieces. Tom crept out and went home to his mother, who was glad to see him, though he was all over a crust of dough and plums. One day he was nearly drowned in the milk-jug; another time he was lost in the salt-box; and when he went with his mother into the fields to milk the cows, she tied him to a thistle with a piece of thread, for fear he should be blown away by the wind. Soon after, a cow ate up the thistle and swallowed Tom; but Tom scratched and kicked so she was glad to throw him out of her mouth again. Once as he was ploughing with his father, a great eagle swooped down, caught him in its beak, and carried him off to a giant's castle. The giant would have eaten him up, but Tom bit his tongue, and held on by his teeth till the giant in a rage took him out of his mouth and threw him into the sea, where a large fish swallowed him immediately. The fish



was caught and made a present to King Arthur, and when the cook opened, it there was Tom Thumb inside. He was carried to the king and became a great favorite and a Knight of the Round Table.



THE SLEEPING BEAUTY.

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY.



KING and Queen had a dear little baby girl born to them, and all the fairies but one were invited to the christening. Each of these fairies presented the child with a gift; one gave wealth, another virtue, another beauty, and so on. Then the cross old fairy, who had been left out, hobbled into the room, and stretching out a bony finger, said: "On her fifteenth birthday she shall prick her finger with a spindle and die of the wound." Then there was great sorrow at the court; but another fairy spoke up and said: "She shall not die but shall fall into a deep sleep for a hundred years." The day the child was fifteen years old she chanced to be left alone in the castle. Roaming about she came to a room in the tower, the door of which was locked. She turned the key, and saw there an old woman spinning flax. "What is this?" asked the Princess, taking the spindle in her hand. Then she gave a loud scream and fell into a deep sleep. When the King and Queen came back, they too fell asleep, and every living thing in the palace became as if dead. And so it was for a hundred years.

One day a king's son was hunting in the woods when he came to the Enchanted Palace. With a stout heart he went through all the rooms until he came to the couch where the sleeping Princess lay. The Prince was so overcome that he knelt down and kissed her on her forehead. She at once awoke, and so did everybody else in the house. The spell was broken, and there were great rejoicings. The next day the Prince and Princess were married—the good fairy came to bless them—and they lived happily ever after.

LITTLE SNOW WHITE.

ONCE upon a time a Queen sat by the window with an ebony frame in her hand, doing some fine embroidery. It was snowing, and she pricked her finger, and as the drops of blood fell on the snow, she thought to herself, "Oh, if I could only have a child as white as snow, as red as blood, and as black as this ebony-frame!" Not long afterwards a daughter was born to

her whose skin was snow white, whose lips were blood red, and whose hair was black as night. She was named Snow White; and when the child was born the mother died.

In about a year the King married again, and his wife was very beautiful, but very vain. Every day her mirror told her that she was the loveliest woman in the world. Then she was happy. But when Snow White grew up, she became more beautiful than the Queen, and the mirror said so. This made the Queen very jealous, and she tried in every way to get rid of Snow White, but failed. The huntsman could not kill her, nor the wild beasts devour her. She made her home with Seven Dwarfs, who charged her to let no one into the house when they were away. But the Queen came in disguise, and Snow White was deceived:



first with a pair of stays, next with a poisoned comb, and lastly with a poisoned apple, which killed her. The Dwarfs could not bury her, but kept her in a glass case, and with tears bewailed her loss. By and by a King's son passed through the forest, and stopped at the Dwarfs' house over night.

He fell in love with Snow White, and offered a large sum for the case containing her. But the Dwarfs would not sell it at any price. The Prince begged so hard that they took pity on him and gave him the case, and as his attendants bore it away they stumbled, and the piece of poisoned apple fell out of Snow White's mouth.

Opening her eyes and raising the lid of the glass case, she exclaimed, "Where am I?" Full of joy the Prince answered, "Safe with me!" and told her all that had taken place. She consented to go with him to his castle, and there was a grand wedding; and the old Queen was there and danced till she fell down dead.

JACK THE GIANT KILLER.



Maud Humphrey

JACK, THE GIANT KILLER.



JACK was a small boy, but he was not afraid of giants. He killed the great giant Cormoran, and cut off his head. Afterwards he slew the great Welsh giant, whom everybody feared. The King's son became very fond of Jack, and told him that the Princess he wished to marry was in the hands of an enchanter, and there was no one to set her free. Jack said, "I will do it;" so he went to a castle where lived a three-headed giant, and obtained from him an old coat, an old hat and an old pair of shoes.

The coat made Jack invisible, and putting it on he went to the house of the enchanter, Gala Gantua, over whose door hung a great horn, with the words on it:

"Whoever can this trumpet blow,
Shall cause the giant's overthrow."

Jack blew a blast that made the walls shake, and all the animals fell down dead. All were Princes and Princesses who had been changed into animals by the enchanter, who never let them escape. The Prince, who came with Jack, found that the Princess whom he loved had been changed into a gazelle. They were soon married, and went to live in the Prince's own palace. Jack married a high-born lady and they lived happily together in the enchanter's castle.



THE MUSICIANS OF
BREMEN.



DONKEY, a Dog,
a Cat, and a Cock
set off for Bre-

men, where they planned to
make music together, and to
be admired for their fine voices.

When night came on, the Donkey and the Dog lay down to rest under a tree, while the Cat and the Cock climbed up in the branches. The Cock saw a light in the distance, and called to his companions; and all four decided to move on, in hopes of finding there something good to eat. They found it a robber's cottage, and robbers were there eating and drinking. The Donkey put his fore feet on the window-sill, the Dog jumped on his back, the Cat climbed on the Dog, and the Cock flew up and perched on the Cat. Then at a given signal the Donkey brayed, the Dog barked, the Cat mewed, and the Cock crew, and the robbers ran out of the house in a great fright. The four musicians, having eaten all they wanted, put out the light and went to bed. At midnight the robbers sent a messenger back to the house, and the Cat spit at him, the Donkey kicked him, the Dog bit him, and the Cock cried out "Cock-a-doodle-do!" and the man ran away as fast as he could, and the robbers never came near the house again.

B LUEBEARD.

Maud Henshaw



Bluebeard's wife.

BLUE BEARD.



GENTLEMAN had two daughters, Anne and Fatima. A rich man asked that one of the girls should marry him. But he was ugly and had a blue beard, and Anne said she could not love such a man. But Fatima said she was sorry for him, and consented to be his wife. The truth was she wanted to be mistress of his fine house. One day Blue Beard said to his wife, "I am going away for a year, and will give you the keys of the house. You may open every door but the one to which this is the key." She promised never to use it, and he kissed her good-bye and went away.

Anne and Fatima spent much time in wondering what could be in that room they were forbidden to enter, and one night Fatima took the key and opened the door. She saw the heads of five ladies, cut off, and hanging to the wall by their long hair. The key dropped from her hand and was stained with blood. She and Anne tried to rub it off, but they could not cleanse it. Then they heard a voice in the hall. Blue Beard had come home! He at once asked for his keys. He saw the stain, and said to Fatima, "In half an hour I will cut off your head to hang with the others." The two sisters looked in vain for help. Anne leaned out the window thinking each cloud of dust was some one coming to their rescue. Blue Beard broke open the door, and dragged Fatima out to cut off her head; when, just as he raised his sword, there was a shout, and Fatima's brothers rushed into the hall, and Blue Beard's head went off in a flash. Fatima's life was saved, but ever after she was careful about opening doors that were locked.

PRETTY GOLDBLOCKS.

GOLDBLOCKS was a lovely Princess, with long golden hair, and as soon as the young King saw her he fell desperately in love with her. He sent her rich presents, but she sent them all back, and said she did not wish to marry.

Now there lived at the court a young man, named Charming, and he said, "I wish the King had sent me to Princess Goldilocks. I

am sure she would have come back with me."

When this was told the King he became jealous at once and shut the Prince up in a tower. After a while he felt sorry, and set Prince Charming free, and sent him

with rich gifts to the Princess. As he rode along he saw a fish lying on the grass, and he

threw it back further on he saw an Eagle that

after this he rescued a Raven from an Owl caught in a net, and set the poor bird free.

When he came to the Palace where the Princess lived he offered her the gifts the King had sent. But she would have none of them. "I have made a vow to marry the one who brings me the gold ring I lost in the river some time ago."

Charming was miserable as he walked by the river-side; but soon his grief was turned to joy, when the fish whose life he had saved swam



with his head out of the water and the ring in his mouth. Still the Princess would not return with Prince Charming to marry the King, and the Prince was discouraged. Then she said to the Prince, "Why do you not remain here and marry me and I will make you King of my country?" This he was too honorable to do; so he took the Princess home to his King, and the two were married, and there was a magnificent wedding. But the King was still jealous of Charming, and shut him up in the tower to die of hunger and thirst. But the King died first, and the Queen at once ran to the tower and set Prince Charming free. A month later Prince Charming and Goldilocks were married, and were the happiest King and Queen that ever lived.

THE WHITE CAT



Maud Humphrey

THE WHITE CAT.



KING had three sons and he could not make up his mind which one should be king after him. So he said the one that brings me the prettiest dog at the end of a year shall be king ; and the three princes started off to hunt for dogs. The eldest went to the right, the second to the left, and the third one, Felix, went straight ahead till he came to a castle where lived a white cat. He told her about the dog, and she said she would give him one if he would stay with her till the end of the year. So he did, and when the time came to part they both shed tears. The white cat gave Felix a walnut, saying, "The dog is in that." The other brothers had lovely dogs, but when Felix cracked the walnut out dropped a filbert. He thought it was a trick ; but when he cracked the filbert there was the loveliest dog in the world. "You have won !" said the king, but now try which one can bring me the finest piece of linen. The elder princes brought pieces that would go through a wedding-ring and ear-ring, but Felix cracked a filbert inside of which was a cherry-stone, and inside the cherry-stone forty yards of stuff that could be drawn through the eye of a needle. "You have won again !" said the king ; but now see who can find the most beautiful lady for a wife. When the time came round the white cat said to Felix, "Cut off my head !" "No, no !" said the prince, "I love you too well !" "Do as I tell you !" said the white cat, and the prince cut off her head, and there stood before him the loveliest princess in the world. The old king said, "You have won, Felix ; and you shall be king !" But he did not care to be king, but left the crown to his brothers and went to live with his dear princess in the Castle of the White Cat.

THE BLUEBIRD.

ONCE upon a time there was a very rich king whose wife died, leaving him a beautiful daughter, named Flora. And he married again, and the new queen also had a daughter, who was neither accom-

plished nor beautiful. She was called Troutina, because her face was covered with freckles, like the spots on the back of a trout. But the fairy, Soressio, was her godmother, and she was dressed in robes of splendor, while poor Flora was clothed in rags and dirt. When it became known that Prince Charming was in search of a wife, the queen determined he should marry her daughter; but he caught sight of Flora, who needed not dress to set off her charms, and he had eyes for no one else. The queen was furious; and to punish him

the fairy changed him to a Bluebird, and Flora was locked up in a tower. But the Bird flew here and there, and at last found his dear Flora and sang love-songs at her window. He brought her rich gifts from his own castle, and the two had sweet talks together. The queen found it out and set traps around the window, so he could not get near it, and he thought Flora had proved false, and she wept because he came no more. Meanwhile a friend of the prince's, an enchanter, went all over the world in search of him, and



found him at last, wounded and nearly dead. He took the poor Bluebird from the tree, stanchd its blood, and then set out to have a talk with Soressio. The prince was on the point of losing his throne, and the fairy would not change him back to his own shape unless he would marry Troutina. In the meantime Flora was pining herself to death, and one day she set off in disguise in search of Prince Charming. She reached his palace, and by means of a whispering gallery near where he slept, made her presence known, and assured him of her continued love and Troutina's treachery. The enchanter and another kind fairy joined forces against Soressio, and changed Troutina to a pig, and Prince Charming and Flora were married, and great was the joy of all the people.

Maud Humphreys

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FAIRY

FABLES



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